

## The Unlikely: The Coward Judges 6/7 Passim

- A coward is a person who lacks the courage to do or endure.
- Are you a coward?
- Judges 6:11 - 11The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.
- Just because a decision is smart, doesn't mean it is courageous.
- <sup>12</sup> When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."
- When you follow Jesus, God gives you a new identity.
- <sup>13</sup> "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" <sup>15</sup> "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." <sup>16</sup> The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."
- Your opinion of yourself does not determine God's purpose for your life.
- <sup>17</sup> Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. <sup>18</sup> Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."
- <sup>22</sup> When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" <sup>23</sup> But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."
- <sup>36</sup> Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— <sup>37</sup> look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." <sup>38</sup> And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.
- <sup>39</sup> Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew." <sup>40</sup> That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.
- Allow me one more test...
- How many signs do you need?
- When was the last time you thanked God for being patient and gracious to you?
- Judges 7:2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'
- If God asked you to do something that made no sense, would you?
- If the call of God is clear, he will provide the "how."

- **10 If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah 11 and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.”**
- **What are the reminders God is sending you?**
- **God’s plan for you is bigger than your fear.**
- **Leaving your fear here leaves your fear in control.**

**Questions:**

**Have you ever known someone who a coward who turned into a brave person? What made the change?**

1. Read Judges 6:11-23
2. After reading this section, what words would you use to describe Gideon? Does he strike you as God’s mighty warrior? Why or why not?
3. Think about Mary’s reaction to the angel Gabriel in Luke 2 and contrast that with Gideon’s reaction. How would you describe the difference?
4. Read Judges 6:36-40.
5. Have you ever heard of someone laying out a fleece before God? What does this do for Gideon?
6. Read Judges 7:1-24
7. If you were in Gideon’s shoes, how would you feel about God reducing the size of your army?
8. What did Gideon’s unorthodox battle plan accomplish that a large army could not? What does this tells us about how God operates?